

I am writing because I am very concerned about further deregulation of the mass media. The major media corporations wield too much social and political power as it is, and further deregulating the industry will mean more power can be consolidated into fewer hands. News and information will be filtered and will contain less local relevance. The slight productivity and efficiency gains that might result from further consolidation are not worth the social price.

I am particularly concerned that this crucial topic is being decided with very little input from the general public. The mass media is not reporting on this issue for obvious conflict-of-interest reasons. Chairman Powell feels strongly that this vote should happen as soon as possible, because, he claims, Congress has admonished him in the past for being late turning in FCC reports. An issue like this requires much more input from citizens, and should be decided by Congress, not by an appointed commission of only five people. I would far prefer Chairman Powell to be late turning in the FCC review than for this critically important issue to be decided without enough public debate.